



Connecticut Duck Stamp Art Contest Rules

Dates: Entries will be received by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) Wildlife Division, Attn: Migratory Game Bird Program, 391 Route 32, North Franklin, CT 06254. **Entries must be received in person or postmarked on or before April 15, 2015, to be eligible.**

Judges: Judges (5) will be selected annually by the DEEP Wildlife Division and will include members from waterfowl and environmental conservation organizations/groups, ornithologists (experts in bird biology), and may include artists (who do not participate in the contest), Connecticut legislators, and media personalities/celebrities.

Contest Rules

- 1) **Format of entry:** Artwork may be in any full-color medium, including acrylic, oil, colored pencil, and watercolor. However, no photographic process, digital process, or metallic or fluorescent paints can be used.
 - a) Image must be horizontal and measure not more than 18" x 13."
 - b) Artwork must be original, and the artist must include with the entry the signed certificate appended to these contest rules to that effect. No winning design from another contest (federal, state, private) is allowed.
 - c) **No scrollwork, lettering, or signature can appear on the painting itself.** The painting cannot be framed or under glass. An acetate or similar clear plastic covering is acceptable, if it can be easily removed for judging.
- 2) **Artist eligibility:** The contest is open to all artists regardless of residence, age, or experience.
 - a) One entry per person.
 - b) Qualifying junior artists (i.e., K-12 students) may enter the CT Junior Duck Stamp Contest (or their state of residence) and this contest simultaneously.
 - c) The winning artist is ineligible for the following two years.
- 3) **Restrictions on subject matter of entry:** The image must depict a waterfowl species that occurs in Connecticut. (See list at the end of this document.)
 - a) In this instance, 'waterfowl species' means ducks, geese, and brant. This is in deference to the historical usage of the term 'fowl,' which indicated hunted species of birds. Featuring waterfowl on Connecticut's Migratory Bird Conservation Stamp pays homage to the conservation heritage left by hunters who advocated for the creation of the federal migratory bird stamp program which began in 1934.
 - b) **Ineligible species:** Species which have been selected for the Migratory Bird Conservation Stamp during the preceding three years are not eligible subjects for the current contest.
 - i) **Wood duck, hooded merganser, and northern shoveler are not eligible for the 2015 contest.**
 - c) **Background:** Images that include a Connecticut scene or landmark in the background are preferred. Images that depict species or habitats that do not occur in Connecticut are not acceptable. The design must be the contestant's own original creation and may not be copied or duplicated from previously published art, including photographs. An entry submitted in a prior Connecticut contest or any other art contest which was not selected (not published or printed anywhere and for which no publishing rights are currently held) **may** be submitted to the present contest so long as other subject matter restrictions are met.
- 4) **Possession, display, and publication arrangements for entries:** The winning entry will be featured on the following year's Connecticut Migratory Bird Conservation Stamp. There is no monetary prize for winning.
 - a) The winning entry and second and third place runner-ups, at the discretion of the CT DEEP, will remain in the agency's possession for up to one year to be displayed in public locations (nature centers, government buildings, etc) within the state to promote the contest and conservation programs. Such displays will feature general artist biographical information.
 - b) Other entries will be returned by United Parcel Service (UPS) to the other participating artists within 60 days of completion of the contest. **NOTE: UPS WILL NOT DELIVER TO A POST OFFICE BOX.** Artists should provide a street address, or directions for UPS. **Artists should submit art in packaging suitable for reuse to return entries once the contest is completed.** Entries may also be picked up in person at the same CT DEEP location where they were submitted.
 - c) If the winning artist desires to have limited edition prints produced, he/she must do so at his/her own expense and provide the CT DEEP with 20 prints to be entitled 'Conservation Edition' and labeled sequentially with the artist's signature in the lower right corner. The CT DEEP will use some of the

Conservation Edition prints to help promote the contest. The remainder will be made available for fundraising purposes to environmental conservation groups whose goals are consistent with DEEP's mission.

- i) If the winning artist does not choose to produce limited edition prints within six months of the contest judging, the CT DEEP will assume reproduction rights, and may issue a limited edition print series.
- 5) **Property insurance for entries:** All contestants are hereby notified of the advisability of obtaining adequate property insurance coverage for their respective entry. The CT DEEP will not insure the entries it receives and is **not** responsible for damage in the mail or **loss** by fire or theft.
- 6) **Contest procedures:** All qualifying entries will be displayed chronologically based on the date of receipt of the entry. The only visible identification mark on each entry will be the designation assigned to the entry by the contest coordinator.
 - a) **Scoring procedures for contest** – Prior to the judging of entries, the entire panel of judges will be briefed by the contest coordinator on the requisite characteristics which make a design suitable for printing. The entire display of qualifying entries will be closely scrutinized by the panel of judges. Each judge will then be allowed to nominate five entries for preliminary consideration by the entire panel of judges. When the judges have completed this nomination process, the entries so nominated for consideration will be voted on by written ballot by the panel of judges. The entry receiving the highest score will win.
 - b) **Scoring criteria for contest:** – Entries will be judged based on the following five categories: Originality, Artistic Composition, Anatomical Accuracy, General Rendering, and Suitability for Reproduction. Each nominated entry will be assessed a score between 1 and 10 for each of the five categories.
 - i) The contest coordinator will tabulate the final votes and announce the winning entry, which received the highest total of points, and the second and third runner-ups. In the event of a tie vote for first place in the final round of consideration, the entire panel of judges will vote again on the deadlocked entries, with each judge voting for only that entry believed to be most qualified to win. If, after three rounds of judging, any two or more entries receive identical scores, selecting the winning artwork will reside with the Commissioner of the CT DEEP. The selection of the winning entry by the judges (or Commissioner) will be final.

List of Eligible Connecticut Waterfowl Species

American Black Duck	Gadwall	Mallard	Common Merganser	White-winged Scoter
American Wigeon	Greater Scaup	Northern Pintail	Hooded Merganser is NOT eligible.	Brant
Blue-winged Teal	Green-winged Teal	Northern Shoveler is NOT eligible.	Red-breasted Merganser	Canada Goose
Bufflehead	Harlequin Duck	Redhead	Common Eider	Snow Goose
Canvasback	Lesser Scaup	Ring-necked Duck	Black Scoter	Wood Duck is NOT eligible.
Common Golden-eye	Long-tailed Duck	Ruddy Duck	Surf Scoter	